

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An external cover covering an attaching section which is provided in a main unit of a first device to fit a second device to the main unit of~~ A device which is a first device for fitting a second device thereto, the first device, comprising:

an attaching section to which the second device is fitted; and

~~the external cover, a removable cover that can be entirely detached from a main unit of~~ the first device,

when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, the removable cover serving a first function as a cover for the attaching section, ~~the external cover,~~

when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the removable cover serving a second function which is different from the first function ~~while maintaining the first function,~~ such that ~~the external~~ removable cover is ~~provided~~ entirely detached from the first device at a location at which the removable cover serves as a cover for the attaching section and then reattached to one of either the first device or and the second device in a state different from a state when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~external cover~~ device according to claim 1, wherein:
one of the first device and the second device is provided with object determination means which determines whether or not there exists any object at a predetermined position,
prior to fitting the second device to the main unit of the first device, the ~~external removable~~ cover is entirely detached from the attaching section, and
while the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the ~~external removable~~ cover exists at the position ~~thus~~ determined by the object determination means, and is attached to ~~an~~ a device which is not provided with the object determination means of the first device and the second device.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~external cover~~ device according to claim 2, wherein:
the object determination means is an actuator, and
the second function is a function as a shock-absorbing member with respect to the actuator.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The ~~external cover~~ device according to claim 1, ~~including a plurality of surfaces~~, wherein:
the removable cover includes a plurality of surfaces, and

when the ~~external~~ removable cover is ~~attached~~ reattached to the first device, a function of the ~~external~~ removable cover is changed between the first function and the second function depending on which surface of the plurality of surfaces is exposed to outside of the first device.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The ~~external cover~~ device according to claim 4, wherein:

while the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, a transporting target can be delivered between the main unit of the first device and the second device, and

a surface of the ~~external~~ removable cover exposed to outside of the main unit of the first device serves the second function by guiding the transporting target to be transported.

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The ~~external cover~~ device according to claim 5, wherein:

the second device has a guide member which guides the transporting target to be transported, and

when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the guide member and a surface of the ~~external~~ removable cover exposed to outside of the first device overlap each other.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~external cover~~ device according to claim 1, wherein:

the second function is a function associated with the second device.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming device including:

an attaching section for fitting ~~other~~ another device thereto; and

~~an external~~ removable cover covering the attaching section, wherein:

when the other device is not fitted to the image forming device, the ~~external~~ removable cover serves a first function as a cover for the attaching section, and

when the other device is fitted to the image forming device, the ~~external~~ removable cover serves a second function which is different from the first function while maintaining the first function, such that the ~~external~~ removable cover is provided to the image forming device or the other device in a state different from a state when the other device is not fitted to the image forming device.

9. (Currently Amended) A control system comprising:

a first device;

a second device; and

~~an external~~ a removable cover covering an attaching section which is provided in a main unit of the first device to fit the second device to the main unit of the first device, wherein:

the ~~external~~ removable cover, when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, serves a first function as a cover for the attaching section,

the ~~external~~ removable cover, when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, serves a second function which is different from the first function ~~while maintaining the first function~~, such that the ~~external~~ removable cover is provided to the first device ~~or the second device~~ in a state different from a state when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, and

if the ~~external~~ removable cover does not serve the second function when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, at least one of the main unit of the first device, ~~of and~~ the main unit of the first device and the second device, is caused not to operate.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming device comprising:

an attachment section at which said image forming device is connectable to an auxiliary device; ~~said image forming device including and~~

a removable cover attachable to said image forming device in a first manner to cover said attachment section and in a second manner to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device, wherein

when the removable cover is to be attached in the second manner after it is attached in the first manner, the removable cover is entirely detached from the image forming device and then reattached to the image forming device in the second manner.

11. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said removable cover is secured to said image forming device at a first location to cover said attachment section and at a second location spaced from said first location to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device.

12. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said removable cover is secured to said image forming device at a first location in a first orientation to cover said attachment section and in said first location in a second orientation to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image forming device of claim 10 comprising:
an attachment section at which said image forming device is connectable to an auxiliary
device; and
a removable cover attachable to said image forming device in a first manner to cover said
attachment section and in a second manner to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary
device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device,
wherein

said cover ~~comprises a shock absorbing device~~ is adapted to engage an actuator on the auxiliary device when said cover is secured to said image forming device in the second manner and is to function as a shock absorbing device.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said cover comprises a reflective surface.

15. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said cover comprises a guide member when mounted in the second manner.

16. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 15 wherein said cover comprises a paper guide when mounted in the second manner.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively rendering operable an image forming device connected to an auxiliary device comprising the steps of:

providing an image forming device having an attachment section for attachment to an auxiliary device and an enablement section for supporting an element for enabling the joint operation of the image forming device and the auxiliary device;

attaching a removable cover at the attachment section;

providing an auxiliary device attachable to the image forming device;

removing the removable cover;

repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section; and

attaching the auxiliary device to the imaging forming device such that the removable cover enables the joint operation of the image forming device and the auxiliary device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section comprises the steps of reattaching the removable cover at a location spaced from the attachment section.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section comprises the steps of reattaching the removable cover at a location at least partially overlying the attachment section.

20. (Previously Presented) In an image forming device including an attachment section at which an auxiliary device is attachable to the image forming device and a removable cover for covering the attachment section when no auxiliary device is attached to the attachment section, a method of preventing loss of the removable cover comprising the steps of:

configuring the auxiliary device or the image forming device so as to be inoperable when the auxiliary device is connected to the image forming device unless an enabling device is connected to the image forming device; and

configuring the removable cover as the enabling device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a shock absorbing element for engaging an actuator on the auxiliary device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a reflective surface for reflecting a distance measuring light of the auxiliary device.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a portion of a paper guide path between a paper source in the auxiliary device and a photoconductive drum in the image forming device.

24. (New) In an image forming device including an attachment section at which an auxiliary device is attachable to the image forming device and a removable cover for covering the attachment section when no auxiliary device is attached to the attachment section, a method

of using an enabling device to connect the auxiliary device to the image forming device comprising:

configuring the auxiliary device or the image forming device so as to be inoperable when the auxiliary device is connected to the image forming device unless the enabling device is connected to the image forming device; and

using the removable cover as the enabling device.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said step of using the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a shock absorbing element for engaging an actuator on the auxiliary device.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said step of using the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a reflective surface for reflecting a distance measuring light of the auxiliary device.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said step of using the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a portion of a paper guide path between a paper source in the auxiliary device and a photoconductive drum in the image forming device.